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adherence to them, and speculating as to changes both in principle and in practice that are advisable. The subject is not handled as a matter of case law, even where, as in the case of maritime law, it is susceptible of such treatment. Somewhat over a hundred cases, largely American, are cited, but the collection does not apparently purport to be substantially complete. It follows that to the active practitioner the book will have little value, and the same thing is true for the student of the subject. But to the beginner, and to the lawyer who would obtain a general view of this subject in a readable and reasonably concise form, the book will be very welcome. Its style is pleasant and smooth, and the presentment, with its slight British bias, clear and comprehensive.

Some very interesting problems are discussed, of which we may mention the question as to the power of common-law courts to protect private property of the inhabitants of conquered territory from executive confiscation incident to the acquisition of the territory. It is believed, however, that the author is mistaken in thinking that in such case "the law of the nations is, by an article of the Constitution" of the United States, "part of the law of the land" (p. 20). But his contention that recent English decisions on the point were ill-advised, and that in such case the courts should adjudicate upon private rights in accordance with the principles of international law, though admittedly without common-law support, is strongly urged, and worthy of consideration.

A. R. G.

THE MECKLENBURG DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. By William Henry Hoyt. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1907. pp. xv, 284. 8vo.

In the last few years interest has again been aroused in the moot case of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence by the discovery of fresh evidence bearing on the controversy. There seems no doubt that the patriotic committee for Mecklenburg County, on May 31, 1775, passed a set of resolutions which were in effect a contingent declaration of independence. But since 1817 an energetic effort has been sustained to force general belief in a more formal and unconditional declaration, asserted to have been pronounced on May 20, 1775, in language strikingly similar to the federal Declaration. Here, then, is the crux of the matter. Was there a separate declaration on May 20, whose spirit was softened in the May 31 resolves, or was it the latter resolves which were recalled and written of incidentally as a declaration of independence?

In favor of the existence of the earlier declaration there are alleged copies and circumstantial evidence. Dr. George W. Graham, in his book published in 1905, found in the more recently discovered evidence new grounds for supporting this view. Mr. Hoyt has reached the opposite result — one that to the layman seems the more reasonable. It would not do to say that he has written the last word on the question, but it will probably be the last word of moment until irrefragable documentary evidence comes to light. No existing clue seems to have been neglected by Mr. Hoyt. His spirit is that of the impartial judge, his logic is convincing, and his style is clear and readable. The exposition should be interesting to every student of American history. H. S.

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. By Sir Courtenay Ilbert. Second Edition. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press. London and New York: Henry Froude. 1907. pp. xxxii, 408. 8vo.

The author of this book brings to his task exceptional qualifications. At one time he was law member of the Council of the Governor-General of India, and he is at present Clerk of the House of Commons, so that both from familiarity with Indian affairs gained by personal experience, and from acquaintance with British legislative and administrative ideals, he can speak with authority.